

1-35 (cancelled)

~~36~~ (currently amended) A purified antibody that specifically binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

~~37~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~36~~, which is a monoclonal antibody.

~~38~~ ¹⁶ (currently amended) A method for generating preparing an antibody that binds a RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, wherein the antibody is elicited by, said method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and
- f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and
- g) ~~a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.~~

39-41 (cancelled)

~~42~~ ⁷ (currently amended) A purified antibody that specifically binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide than to a murine RANKL polypeptide according to SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said human RANKL polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- b) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- c) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13;
- d) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13; and

e) a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~43. 8~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~42~~ which is a monoclonal antibody.

~~44. 9~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~43~~, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~45. 10~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~43~~, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~46. 11~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~43~~, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~47. 12~~ (previously presented) An antibody according to claim ~~43~~, wherein the RANKL polypeptide comprises amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~48. 13~~ (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim ~~41~~.

~~49. 13~~ (previously presented) A composition comprising an antibody according to claim ~~43~~.

50-52 (cancelled)

~~53. 17~~ (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~54. 18~~ (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 69-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~55. 19~~ (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-162 of SEQ ID NO:13.

~~56. 20~~ (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 162-313 of SEQ ID NO:13.

21. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids 138-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

22. (new) A method for preparing an antibody according to claim 38, wherein the antibody is elicited by immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

23. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 22, said method comprising culturing a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

24. (new) A method of producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 23, said method comprising injecting into the peritoneal cavity of a rodent a cloned hybridoma cell that produces said antibody.

25. (new) A cloned hybridoma cell that produces a monoclonal antibody according to claim 22.

26. (new) A purified antibody that binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, but that does not bind to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

27. (new) A purified antibody that binds with higher affinity to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 than to a murine RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said antibody is generated by a method comprising immunizing with a RANKL polypeptide comprising amino acids x to y of SEQ ID NO:13, wherein x is an amino terminal amino acid between 69 and 162 of SEQ ID NO:13, and y is a carboxy terminal amino acid between 313 and 317 of SEQ ID NO:13.